



THE BELLOWS

30th GREAT YEAR

February 19, 2009

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XXX No. 6

WHAT	NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS
WHERE	DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208 S. 223rd St. (Take Midway exit #149 west off I-5...go to first stop light west of Pacific Hwy. South...Turn right.)
WHEN	Thursday, February 19th 7:00 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. (doors open about 6:00 p.m.)
WHY	A short business meeting/Show report..Auction (One item lot per member)..Door Prize..Show & Tell..Members trade-sell tables (Free to members, please ignore during business meeting.) <u>Program:</u> Portland member, <u>Ralph London</u> , will present a program on the Anthony Company the oldest American manufacture of camera and photographic supplies, founded in 1842.

RALPH LONDON TO PRESENT OUR FEBRUARY PROGRAM:

Thanks to our long time Portland member, Ralph London, we will have what promises to be a very nice program this month. He will give a concise program on the Anthony Company..begun in 1842..which is the oldest American manufacture of cameras and photographic supplies. Ralph will show some EARLY Anthony wooden cameras, chemical bottles and catalogs...all from his collection.

Ralph, and his wife Bobbie, are long time PSPCS members and have done a display at our Show since 1993. He collects mainly early wood-brass cameras from 1840 to the early 1900s..plus relevant catalogs, ads and related items.

Ralph, a retired computer scientist, has lived in Portland for many years. He was editor of the "Cascade Panorama" for the late Cascade Photographic Historical Society.

VANCOUVER B.C. CAMERA SHOW AGAIN IN APRIL:

Sunday, April 26th is the date for the next Camera Show by Siggil. It is again being held at the Lougheed Mall in Burnaby B.C.. He has 120 tables for rent at \$40.00 each. Admission is \$5.00 at 10 a.m. or \$15.00 at 9 a.m...Children under 14, with an adult, get in free. There is free parking. For all the information call or fax Siggil Rohde 604 941 0300. This has been a fun Show in past years and the end of April would be a grand time for a "getaway weekend" in Vancouver.

DUES ARE DUE..NOW:

It is time for those of you who have been putting off paying your 2009 dues to "get the job done"! We would hate to loose you as a paid up member but the Club can not afford to keep you as a member with out your \$20.00 dues support. Please pay Shirley at the meeting or send to her address which is at the bottom of page two. Thank you. You are a valued member. We would hate to loose you.

THIS MONTHS MYSTERY QUESTION

With thanks to the Western Photographic Historical Society

Answer at end of Newsletter

What line of cameras made in Detroit, Mi between 1938 & 1940 were produced in eleven models, all but one of which using 127 roll film?

★ ★ ★ BACKSIDE INFORMATION ★ ★ ★

The January 15th meeting of the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society came to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 31 members and guests in attendance. The minutes of the November 20th, 2008 meeting were approved as read. (There had been no December 2008 meeting due to a snowstorm.) The treasurer reported we are still solvent. She looks forward to both dues and Show table rental monies coming in.

OLD BUSINESS AND SHOW REPORT:

There was no old business. Bill Kimber reported that a Show Committee meeting had just been held and that everything was going well. Now was the time to sign up for tables and start passing out the provided flyers to interested stores and people. Your camera display table form will be included in the February Bellows. Any member may do a camera display. Display tables are FREE.

PROGRAM:

Because of the snowstorm in December, we moved our Christmas gift exchange and Christmas feed to the January meeting. Thanks to Don Friend and his lovely wife there was plenty of really good tasty food and sparkling cider drink that could have fed more members than chose to attend. The gift exchange was most enjoyable as always. Santa even took time away from his after Christmas vacation to a very secret warm location to visit and assist with the gift exchange. This was very nice of Santa but you could tell he was eager get back to the sun, sand and Mrs. Clause.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. for more nummie munching and a bit of clean up.

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The following is from The Photographic Historical Society Newsletter and is used with thanks. Ed.

Can't find a bulb for that aging projector? Try Bulbs Direct at 1 Fishers Road, Pittsford, N.Y. 14534-9511
WEB: <http://www.bulb-direct.com> or call 585-3540 or 1-800 7725367

Want a Camera Binocular or dozens of other optical items from geiger counters to spy cameras send for the catalog of American Science & Surplus-P.O. Box 1030 Skokie, Ill. 60076l
Then there are cameras from the Far East at bargain prices. At least they used to be bargain prices. It's worth the postage to write for a catalog to A.W. White Photo Supplies, Box 6018 TST PO Hong Kong. We are not sure if this is a current address. We recently found their old catalog in our files along with the sales slip for our first Leica which at that time was a bargain price.



THE BELLOWS Newsletter is published 10 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for **The Bellows** should be sent to Bill Kimber, 1413 Weathervane Drive, Tacoma, WA 98466-5712, (253) 564-4046, billkimber@webtv.net

The P.S.P.C.S. internet address is www.pspcs.org

Dues are \$20.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow, 300 Pease Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922, (509) 674-1916, sesparrow9@msn.com P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our yearly April show.

PRESIDENT: DARREL WOMACK (206) 244-6831 dlwcam669@yahoo.com

2009 SHOW COMMITTEE SCORES AGAIN:

Each year your Show Committee works very diligently to find a really good speaker to present our special meeting talk to kick off our Show Experience Weekend. We have brought in fine people from all over the U.S. and Canada. As we began our search for this year's speaker...with the help of PSPCS member Ralph London...we soon realized that we had a very special candidate right in our own back yard. His name: Milan Zahorcak. Milan lives outside of Portland, Oregon and has been a member of PSPCS since 1991. His area of expertise is early lenses. What a great topic we thought. After all a 19th century camera was nothing more than a light tight box with a piece of sensitized material at one end and a hole at the other end. It, of course, needed a lense to make a picture. Without a lense..nothing.

The title of Milan's talk is: Lense Lore: A primer on Early Lenses. He will have slides and examples to show. We asked him for a bit of a resume to let you better know who he is. What we received was the following third person reply:

"Most of us know Milan from various local shows and his displays at Pupallup. At one time he used to collect early wooden gear, then early shutters and now (he) just collects early lenses and specializes in original designs and the evolution of various lens types.

Milan recently wrote the section on the "Evolution of the Photographic Lense" in the current edition of the focal Encyclopedia; and claims that it was mostly true when he wrote it. He's been collecting lenses of an "original design by the original makers" for about ten years. The city of Tualatin Public Library thought he had the most interesting collection of items no one had ever heard of that they had ever put on display.

As a result of his library experience, the original title for his presentation was going to be, "What the Hell is That?..." but he didn't want us to get too excited. And so, as our our special Show Experience Weekend speaker he will be discussing "Lense Lore"...the lenses found on early American cameras up through about 1900...and the stories behind them. He promises that almost everything he'll say is largely true...and if it isn't it'll be interesting anyway."

This is going to be a fun and interesting presentation by "one of our own".

CAMERAS FOR SALE:

Non-member, Kim Sorensen...3554 Overlander Drive..Kamloops, BC, Canada..V2B 6X8
E-mail: ksorensen@sd73.bc.ca Phone (250) 579-9804..Cell (250) 318-0141 has the following cameras to sell. She does not know their value but will entertain offers for one or all of them. If you are interested she looks forward to hearing from you. Ed.

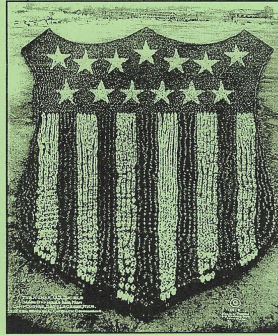
Qty	Make	Model	Year	Manual	Flash	Description	Accessories
1	Polaroid	150		no	no	land	
1	Kodak	EK6	1980's	yes	extra	instant	MagicFlash, Carry case,
1	Kodak	Jiffy Series II		no	no	film 620	
1	Polaroid	Cool Cam		no	yes	instant 600	
1	Kodak	Hawkeye		yes	yes	film 127	
1	Kodak	F #2 Brownie		no	no	film 120	
1	Anso	ReadyFlash		no	yes	film 620	
1	Zeiss Ikon	Ikomatic F		no	yes	film 126	Carry case
1	Sawyers	Pana-Vue		no	no	slide automatic	

People as Pixels

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The photograph below was made using 30,000 soldiers in a formation that measured 748 X 580 feet. The photographer was Arthur S. Mole and his assistant was John D. Thomas. The 11 X 14 negative was made with a view camera mounted on an 80 foot high tower constructed for the event. The picture entitled "The Human U. S. Shield" was taken in 1918 at Camp Custer in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Arthur S. Mole (1889-1983) was commercial artist turned photographer. Mole first developed his technique of collective portraiture by photographing fellow church members assembled in the shape of religious symbols. In these efforts he was assisted by the John D. Thomas, the church choir director, who continued to be his partner in the production of more than 30 images with patriotic themes.



Using the rules of perspective Mole created arrangements of people that when viewed directly from above would have appeared almost meaningless or at the very least greatly distorted. But when viewed from the top of the tower the arrangement formed a perfect image. Thousands of soldiers were choreographed into formations using markers on the ground that outlined the details of the image as it would appear on the negative. This meant that Mole probably spent several days perched atop the tower directing assistants to set the markers as he viewed the ground glass on the camera. One might suspect that he had already sketched out the desired image on the ground glass. This must have been both a heroic and a chaotic operation. Remember they most likely did not have wireless communication or bullhorns but had to rely on field telephones and megaphones.

It has been suggested that the posing and adjusting of the living arrangement took many hours during which some soldiers actually passed out.

I tried a few simple experiments using a 4 X 5 view camera on a much smaller scale (no 80 foot tower). With the film plane normal (perpendicular) to the plane of the ground and the top of the lens board

tilted down a fair approximation of the technique used by Mole was achieved. You can see some vignetting in the lower corners of the Mole picture. This would be expected considering the image circle diameter of normal lenses in use at the time and the amount of lens shift required.

Most puzzling is the lack of strong shadows. Could the picture have been taken at daybreak or twilight or on an overcast day? If it was taken at high noon why are the faces below the campaign hats not in the shadow of the hat brim? Remember, Mole did not have Photoshop. The 11 X 14 negatives were contact printed and there does not seem to be any obvious retouching of the negative. He might have been able to do some gross dodging and burning but that does not seem to provide any answers to these questions.

Others have made "living photographs" but none at the scale of those produced by Mole and Thomas.

Having personally taken staged photographs of 100 plus people, I can not even imagine the problems with a cast of 30,000. All hail Arthur S. Mole, photographer extraordinary.

You can see more of Mole's work at: <<http://community.livejournal.com/ruguru/669925.html>>

So

What line of cameras made in Detroit, MI between 1938 & 1940 were produced in eleven models, all but one of which using 127 roll film?

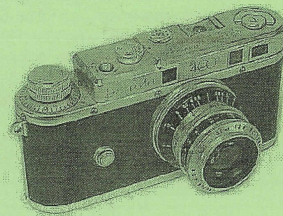


Photo courtesy Roger Reinke.

Answer: Only the last Detrola Model 400 used 35mm film. Detrola Radio Corp. began making 4-tube radios in 1929 and ventured into the unprofitable camera line from 1938-1940. While not particularly valuable, the entire camera line is interesting and a collector's challenge to locate them all, especially the last: Leica inspired Model 400 valued at \$500-750.